11: Melamid S-3 (no date) 1954 MLI Yemen MLI
HADHRAMAUT MM 2

Y
471 a tannery, and a textile plant. This preference for German firms is rather
609 remarkable.[4] However, Yemen authorities claim that American and Brit-
Y ish firms were not interested in these concessions.
471
651 The terms of the oil concession are reported to be based on a capital and profit division of 75 per cent to Yemen, and 25 per cent to the concessionaire. This may explain the lack of interest of American and British firms whose oil concessions in other petroleum-producing countries are on a 50/50 profit-sharing basis, without local capital participation. Furthermore, the Yemen concession is to run for only twenty years (compared
Y with sixty-six years for the Saudi Arabian concessions), provided oil is
135 found within five years. According to the available geological information, the outlook for finding oil is not too encouraging as the highlands of Yemen consist primarily of rocks which are geologically devoid of oil. However,
Y the narrow coastal strip and the lowland deserts do offer possibilities. Here
[131] there is a complication. Because of the absence of definite boundaries, the eastern deserts may be claimed either by Saudi Arabia or by the Aden protectorate.

Yemen also has hopes of discovering commercially utilizable quantities of gold, silver, copper and iron ore, which were all formerly mined in the highlands.[5] Considerable areas in the wadis below the highlands are re-
Y ported to be suitable for the cultivation of cotton, provided modern meth-
[609] ods of irrigation are introduced. Even if no oil is discovered, the change in the attitude towards foreigners and towards innovations may bring about far-reaching economic and political changes in this state.

● H
471 In 1938, a subsidiary of the Iraq Petroleum Company (in which Brit-
609 ish, Dutch, French, American and other capital participates) obtained exploratory oil concessions in the Aden protectorate. So far no discoveries
177 have been reported. The sheiks and sultans of the area have lately opened their territories to a limited number of foreign travellers, mostly surveyors. Emigrants who had settled in India, Malaya, and Indonesia and who have returned, particularly to Mukalla and the Hadhramaut, have
H contributed not only experience gained overseas, but some capital as well.
432 Regular motor and air transportation[6] is now available. Several irrigation
431 schemes have been established in the western Aden protectorate, at Abyan, where crops of high quality cotton are grown. The greater internal security resulting from the organization of regular police protection against tribal raiders (a combination of the British Royal Air Force and local jeep patrols) has also contributed to economic development. Local fisheries have

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[4] The oil concession was granted to Deilmann Bergbau, German oil producers who also have a concession in Spain.

[5] United Nations, Department of Economic Affairs, *Review of Economic Conditions in the Middle East, 1951-52*, E/2353/Add. 1, ST/ECA/19, Add. 1 (New York, 1953), 126.

[6] At least one foreign trading firm in Aden flies its own plane regularly to various points in the territories to pick up local products and deliver imports.

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

to this rich domain, lies at the edge of the plateau of coral stone. As one approaches from the coast one barely sees the gardens of palms; soon one finds oneself in front of a high, white wall, with a great, fortified gate, which, apparently, is kept closed even during the day. The traveller, as he waits, can only see, close to the wall and rising boldly up above it, the Sultan's massive palace which now serves as barracks for soldiers.

We were obliged to wait at a respectful distance from the menacing, fortified gateway until our letter of introduction had been taken to the palace, read and deemed satisfactory enough to admit us into the tobacco town. Ghēl Bā Wazīr, as a city, has not many beauties except for the large and ancient palace and a few mosques, and we were glad to accept the invitation of one of the authorities of the place to proceed at once to the gardens and to the Sultan's country-house in the cultivated district behind the town. We, therefore, drove without pausing through the place, which reeked of tobacco. The valley side of the town, that is the north side, has less defences than the south, whence start the great thoroughfares to Makalla and esh-Shiḥr. Nowadays motor lorries convey the bales of tobacco, which are two yards long, from el-Ghēl to Makalla. Manure for the tobacco fields is brought from the coast on camels.

A richly cultivated area begins immediately behind the town. The Sultan owns much tobacco-growing land, which is said to be a great source of income to him. Close behind the town are two gardens, in each of which is a newly-built summer residence. We enter the first garden with the smaller house which is set aside for the use of the male members of the household. In the other garden is a much larger building for the wives and their female attendants.

The gate is immediately shut behind us, our following of inquisitive youths remains outside, and we stand in the silence of the luxuriant garden, trying to accustom our eyes to the deep shade under the blossoming fruit-trees. It looks just as

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

000 then stay with him in el-Qaṭn, and, whilst there, visit with him the Ḥimyaritic antiquities in the vicinity. He will then arrange for camels and donkeys, and we shall be able to return to Makalla through Wādī Ḥuwēre in six or seven days. What Sultan ʿAlī says coincides with the advice given us by the Vizier in Makalla and represents the standpoint of el-Qeʿēṭī. We do not wish to make an immediate decision, for we should prefer to return by a different route, but, on the other hand, wish to keep open the possibility of making the return journey through Qeʿēṭī territory, so as not to cut ourselves off from the support of the authorities here.

5. SHIBĀM "EL-DJARĪMA, THE GRAND".

162 Shibām has as many as 500 towering houses and about
167 8000 inhabitants. The number reaches 9000 if one includes
361 the whole garden suburb and the workmen's quarter outside
●471 the walls of the town. There is a school with about 250 pupils, which was founded and is maintained by our hosts. In the town itself there are five large, fine mosques, almost the only low buildings and also the only entirely white ones. Outside the town, but belonging to it, there are seven more. A quarter of the masculine population is travelling constantly abroad to make money, the greater part going to Makalla and Aden. About 100 are in Java and 50 in Singapore. The Āl Ṭuwēy, for example, have house property in Singapore, Batavia and Surabaya, and when times are good they also carry on trade. Altogether about 30 households live on this family property. All the house property of the Laʿdjam brothers is at Singapore. The well-known capitalist Bā Swēdān, who is a great landowner and has hundreds of houses in Singapore and Batavia, also comes from Shibām. Sēwūn and Terīm, however, are the centres where the Ḥaḍramīs live who have made riches in Java, and there are a great number of Dutch subjects in these towns.

000 In Shibām no poll-tax is paid by the population as is the

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden
Hadhramaut mm2

311 471 Inhabitants of Wadi Du'an, an area with an ever-present threat of famine, were persuaded to purchase some of the large tracts of good arable land and shallow wells lying fallow and idle in the main Wadi Hadhramaut in the hope that they will gradually move from their over-populated wadi. Three companies were formed by Duanis, with a capital of well over Rs. 1,00,000 for the purpose of cultivating hitherto dead lands at Dar-Assab, Aqad and the area at Hautat Ahmed bin Zein in the main wadi, while Du'an merchants began to take an interest in existing date palm groves in the area. The local States were empowered to allot dead lands to farmers if the owners failed to cultivate them.

An agricultural syndicate formed to develop the Meifa area of Wadi Hajr with a capital of Rs. 4,00,000 has been active during 1950. The planting of date palms in the area has started and the syndicate [164] allotted lands and gave advances to some 240 Subians—but up to now there is some reluctance on the part of agriculturists from other areas to settle down and work in Meifa owing to the prevalence of malaria there.

In November, 1950, two windmills were imported for experimental use in irrigation, one being installed at Buweish in the coastal area, the other being sent to Sai'un.

Co-operation

474 The Beihan Farmers' Association had a difficult year. A large proportion of the barley crop had been sown early and, in January and February, frost damaged the heading crop, seriously reducing yield and quality. As a result the Association deferred collection of up to 50 per cent of the outstanding loans which were carried over to the Saif and Kharif crops and to the winter crop of the 1949-50 season. Excellent conditions at the end of the year gave the Association full confidence in its operations.

The credit facilities for seed and cash given by the Association enabled the cultivators to carry on without much recourse to merchants and moneylenders.

FISHERIES

228 The Fishery Department did not begin work on a permanent basis until the end of 1949. During 1950 activity has been mostly exploratory. Unfortunately, winch trouble in the fishery vessel severely limited the amount and nature of the trial fishing that could be done, but practically every fishing village in both Protectorates was visited, and also the islands of Kamaran in the Red Sea and Kuria Muria, 700 miles east of Aden off the Muscat coast. The information obtained about the fishing population and its activities forms a valuable basis for development plans.

In general, the observations made in the 1948 report still hold good. The winter sardine seasons of 1949–50 and 1950–51 have, unfortunately, been little better than 1948–49. There has been a definite but slight improvement, but catches of sardines and their attendant predators are

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918)1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Hadhramaut MM2

are tapped for Aden, an aqueduct leading from them along the peninsula into the town (see p. 202). There are very large camping-grounds round the town, the place forming the terminus of many caravan routes from the Aden interior. Sheikh 'Othmān was purchased with the object of settling there the surplus population of the peninsula, but, owing to its inaccessibility and the unhealthiness due to its contaminated water-supply and want of a drainage system, it has so far failed to become a popular settlement.

3. **'Imād,** a miserable village of about 40 reed huts, marks the extreme eastern limit of Aden; it is peopled by the Salum, a small independent tribe.

4. **Perim** and **Socotra.** These two islands are attached to the settlement of Aden. *Perim* is a volcanic island in the straits of Bāb el-Mandeb, 1½ miles from the Arabian coast; it was occupied by the British in 1799, subsequently abandoned, and reoccupied in 1857 on the opening of the overland route. In 1883 a company (the Perim Coal Company) was formed, which obtained a concession on the south-western side of the island as a site for a coaling-station. The company maintains here a stock of Welsh coal varying from 5,000 to 10,000 tons, and a large number of vessels now call annually for supplies. There is a good harbour with a powerful flashing light, elevated 266 ft. and with a range of over 22 miles. The population in 1901 was about 1,200, and no one is allowed to reside on the island without the permission of the Resident. The island is bare and rocky, rather flat in appearance, and about 3 miles long by 2 wide. *Socotra* is distant about 130 miles from the nearest point of the Arabian coast, and some 500 miles from Aden. It is about 70 miles in length and 18 miles in width, and has an unbroken coast on the southern side. The interior may be described as a tableland from 700 to 1,900 ft. high (with rugged peaks rising to nearly 5,000 ft.), surrounded by a coast plain averaging from two to four miles in width; total area about 1,400 square miles; population about 12,000. Its principal products are gum and resin-producing plants and aloes; the island has been famous for the latter from the earliest times. The natives look for their chief means of support to their flocks and date-groves; melons, beans, and a little tobacco are also grown. The trade of the island is small, the chief exports being aloes and *ghi*. The capital is Tamrīda, situated on the northern shore. The island was formally placed under British protection in 1886, and the Sultan receives a stipend from the Government of 360 dollars, undertaking to enter into no arrangement with any foreign power without the sanction of the British Government. The *Kuria Muria Islands*, near the South Arabian coast, in long. 56° E., were